

Someone wrote me last October and called it to my attention that the Summer '94 Key Clucks were actually delivered before the end of that season (Sep. 19, I believe he said). Well, maybe I can keep up my record by calling this one Fall '95. Even then, it's going to be close! Sorry for the delay, it was a busier summer than most - my wife dragged me off to three far-a-way places (Hawaii, Burlington VT, and NYC). More about the Hawaii trip later. This was our first NYC trip since our '68 honeymoon; when my wife told me we were going, I reached in my dresser drawer and pulled out three NYC maps, and told her, "Now you see why I never throw anything away!" I surfed Internet a bit and found a bus and subway map, so we used public transportation the three days we were there. Saved a bundle and didn't get lost or mugged.

This paragraph is about dues. NOW PAY ATTENTION!!!! The nest egg is full; we have enough for this newsletter and the next two (I think), so do NOT (I repeat do NOT) send me any money. Thanks to everyone for your generosity after the last issue. Course if you wanna' contribute to my retirement fund

I'm getting quite a list of wired chickens (CFOers on Internet). If any of you have an e-mail address and haven't sent it to me yet, please contact me at bdillon@admin.aurora.edu Besides e-mail, I found one chicken on IRC (John, W1OBJ), and we've had a few nice QSOs via the net. My access to IRC Undernet is disappearing, so I guess it's back to the bug from now on.

I do apologize for not getting word in the last issue of some of the Silent Keys from the past couple years. A couple of them slipped past me and stayed on the rooster; hope I caught them all this time. Now on to current (almost) news.

Jailbirds in CFO??? W9GA was almost arrested last winter. Irv uses an "invisible" antenna at his apartment complex (number 26 or thereabouts), and after an ice storm got the best of it, he was out behind the building rolling it up just after sunrise when some lady looked out her window. She called the manager to report a suspicious character making wild motions with his arms and shoulders for no apparent reason. Well, gosh, if she were a bit younger, she would have figured Irv was practicing some Eastern meditation method!

W0UCE reports that soon after getting out of the service in the 60s, Don, WA3LKH was a frequent visitor at his QTH. Don used to tease Jack's dog Cindy so fiercely, that Cindy would frequently have an "accident". After Don moved 2000 miles away, Jack and Don kept in contact, usually by cw, but on one SSB QSO, Don asked Jack if Cindy was in the shack. After being assured she was laying quietly on the floor, Don yelled into the mike, "Hey Cindy, you sweaty motheaten fleabag, get yourself up and look alive!" Yup, poor Cindy had an "accident". Boy, that Don would have make one heckuva drill sergeant!

Your editor spent 1995 Field Day on the Big Island of Hawaii. He was fortunate enough to get in a tad of operating from the southernmost U.S. club station in the event, 15 miles north of South Point, the southernmost point in the country (yes, it's way south of Key West). He made 3 cw QSOs on 15 meters with west coast stations, two in California, and one in Montana. The bands were lousy, but the scenery was terrific. Incidentally, did you ever wonder why Hawaii has "interstate" highways?

Larry WA2CVV claims Bert's signals really get around. He was in the Northwest Territories, and the only signal he heard on 40 meters was AK4G. Well, your editor got to visit a Hawaiian's ham shack on his trip, and tuned across 40 meter cw around 02Z on a Sunday night (afternoon in Hawaii, actually), and heard one signal. Guess who.

A soldier, a sailor, a marine, and an air force pilot were discussing their sex lives. The soldier said it had been over three months. The marine said he wasn't that bad off, it had only been two. The sailor said it had been two weeks which was a lot longer than usual. They all looked at the pilot and asked, "When was the last time you had sex?" The pilot replied, "1955." The other three all looked astonished and said, "My goodness, that long ago?" The pilot looked at his watch and said, "Well, gosh, it's only 2115."

Rumor has it that the first sunspots of the next cycle have been spotted on ol' Sol. Get those QSLs ready, it may be DX time again soon. Perhaps it will improve the band conditions on the CFO nets also. The bug net on Tuesdays and the QSO net on Thursdays have been doing quite well under the leadership of K9AMC and W4BQF. These nets both meet at 01Z around 3535 KHZ (00Z around 7035 KHZ in summers). The Saturday morning yodel net has not attracted much activity lately. Maybe the new sunspot cycle will help. That one is around 7235 KHZ at 15Z (14Z in summers).

Golf is a lot like taxes - you work hard to get to the green and then wind up in the hole.

Ye old editor lives a couple miles from the Chicago Air Traffic Control Center. It's suffered several computer outages in recent months. Do you suppose somebody tried to install Windows95 out there?

Word has it that W9TO turns 81 on Dec. 23 and W4GOG turned 82 on Oct. 8. Congrats to our ~~oetagen~~, uh I mean our ~~oetogenar~~, uh, I mean to our OOOOTs (I guess it would be in bad taste to call them chronologically gifted).

Now everyone knows that KP0PB is a fine gentlemen and one that is certainly worthy of emulation. But W4SON carried that a bit far - just because Frank fell off a ladder is no reason to emulate that action. Hope Jack is fully recovered from his own fall in May.

W9KX fell asleep during bug night this year - probably during the editor's transmission.

W4GOG finally got a hole dug for the base of his vertical. It only took Ray two years to do that. Well, we know a retiree is someone who gets up in the morning with nothing to do and when he goes to bed at night he's only half done.

W4BQF reports that W4TNF went to Maine to preach to the corn and beans. Guess that was a hominy homily.

The following were spotted at the Nashville Hamfest in June: K4CJX, N4LQ, W4GOG, N4KQX, K4VM. Thanks to Otis for this report. Otis said he also got a chance to see Steve's shack.

A transfer student in night-school English class was disturbed when the instructor announced: "Tomorrow night we will take up syntax." "Goodness!" she exclaimed. "If they're going to collect that, I'll never be able to afford the tuition!"

We welcome AD4ZA Wiley to the CFO fold. Wiley was a morse op with the RR and Western Union for ten years, then switched to cw for the FAA for 35 years before retiring in 1976. Wiley is 84 (or was in May), and has been a code operator since age 18. Let's see, that means he got his start in 19... Hey, it's a weekend; I only do math on weekdays.

W4TW turned 84 this November 15. Woody got his first ham ticket from the Department of Commerce before there was an RFC or FCC. Woody has been a ham 65 years (let's see, he got started in...). Woody also worked for Western Union and in the navy. He reports his financial condx as "one meal away from the poor house."

W7AGD reports having a stroke a few years ago; he made a good recovery except his left hand coordination is not as good as it used to be, so he's off the keyboard.

Welcome to newcomer Bill W6JRL. Bill started pounding brass for the navy in 1948, and retired in 1966. He got a ham ticket in 1957. Bill's wife Lilo is WB6ELA. Bill's family also consists of one son, two grandsons, two great-grandkids, and three birds. (The editor's wife says her family also has one birdbrain.) Bill's bird Cricket likes to chew on his earphones, and another bird enjoys pecking on his wristwatch while he is trying to send. QLB Bill (switch to the other bird).

If anyone is having trouble with TenTec PTO's, contact Donnie Garrett WA9TGT, 2610 Tacoma Ave, Muncie, IN 47302. Donnie has a lot of experience with TenTec, and reports they now have a PTO rebuild kit with steel parts instead of brass. I hope someone from bug net (who shall remain nameless) is listening!

Reader's Digest didn't think this was funny enough to print, but it sure gave me a chuckle. My wife's cousin's four year old son Joshua was just a little terror one morning. His always patient Mom finally asked, with just a hint of exasperation in her voice, "Joshua, did you get up on the wrong side of the bed this morning?" His matter-of-fact reply: "Yes I did. I wet the other side."

W4LDF was the undisputed winner in the 1994 CFO "Hobbies, Hobbies, Hobbies" Contest. Ed got so many points that Kirby's calculator blew up trying to verify the arithmetic. Second place was claimed by none other than ye old editor. Ok, ok, so there were only two logs submitted; I'll take a second place rating any way I can get it! Anybody got any ideas for a contest that more than two chickens would cluck in?

Welcome to John W6UOT. John reports being bit by the radio bug in the mid 20's, using a Xtal set and Ford coils. John was diagnosed with lung cancer last year, but it appears to be in remission.

Three doctors appeared at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter asked them each what kind of doctor they were. The first said he was a pediatrician and had helped sick children all his life. St. Peter said helping children was truly commendable, and told the doctor to go right on into Heaven. The second doctor said he was an orthopedic surgeon and had helped the elderly. St. Peter also commended this doctor and sent him through the gates. The third doctor said he had been an HMO doctor. St. Peter told him to wait a few minutes, and St. Peter disappeared into Heaven. A few minutes later he returned and told the doctor, "I got approval for three days. After that you can go to Hell."

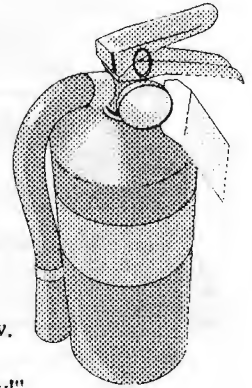
Your editor had a nice meeting with W7JVI and her OM during the summer when they were in the Chicago area to visit a friend of theirs. If any of you have web access and haven't already done so, visit <http://www.eskimo.com/~gorts> It's a great homepage with a lot of CFO info, including the roster, and pictures of the CFO certificates, and I understand some cw (I haven't been able to listen to that since I don't have a sound card).

Ray WØGHX sent a poem for the Clucks. Here's what Ray says about it: "It is biographical, based on a real-life incident in the life of Irv Weinman, W9GA, who on Christmas Eve of 1984 fired up a humungous Alpha amplifier and darn near burned down the entire grove in his back yard." And now, just in time for the season:

Irv's Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas and high in the air
A wire was hanging that hadn't been there.
Two maples sustained it as though they were cedars
While an oak in the middle supported the feeders.
And Irv in his nightcap (and one in his hand)
Had just settled down to tune up the band.
He kicked in the final with a thrill of delight,
Twiddled the dials and tuned everything right.
His final plates glowed like the skin of a cherry,
The arcing and sparking was ever so merry.
His feedlines, they sparkled and crackled until
One of them shorted to the edge of the sill!
To the tips of the branches a fireball raced
As against the night sky eerie fingers it traced.
Then the oak in its mantle of new-fallen snow
Burst into flame and made the neighborhood glow.
And Santa exclaimed as he jingled on by,
"Old Irv mistook Christmas for the Fourth of July!"



WØWFF sent the following biographical sketch: "I am 69 years old, retired in '87, and got my ticket in 1954. I was a landline morse op for Frisco Railroad for a year prior to service in US Army, WWII. Got BSEE on GI bill and later MSEE while teaching undergrads. I worked 40m ragchew and 80m cw tlc nets until 1961 and then got too busy with career and dropped out of hamming except for a very infrequent qso to keep the ticket alive. In April this year I got back into hamming with both feet. Got a nice 100w transceiver and have been working lots of tlc nets cw/ssb since then. I noticed lots of good cw ops around 7030 and after talking to several, Tex WØBMU, got me interested in CFO."

That gets me to the bottom of the shoebox I keep CFO info in between newsletters. (Actually there's more, but I think it's stuff I put in last year and never discarded - might go to NYC again some day). Think I'll see what this looks like in the Desktop system at my wife's office. Maybe I'll make it before Santa does. But to close, let me include a couple goodies I've run across in the past few months.

SOLID-STATE STEREO AMPLIFIER EMULATES TUBE SOUND

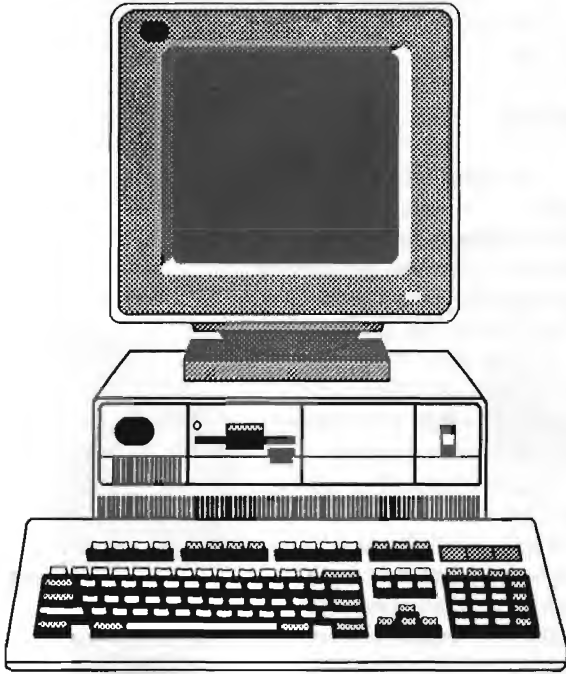
The Ultimate Purist stereo amplifier from Anachronism Inc takes clean audio signals and introduces whopping amounts of distortion to produce a sound like that of earlier vacuum-tube amplifiers. Clipping, non-linearity, and occasional bursts of oscillation combine to yield the tube sound so highly prized by reactionary audio purists. To add even more tubelike flavor to the amplifier's performance, its designers have incorporated a variable hum control, with which users can introduce pleasing amounts of 60-Hz filament-supply hum into the audio signal. Additional touches include an automatic self-destruct feature for the transistors (to emulate vacuum-tube burnout) and a built-in 50-lb lead weight to simulate the output transformer. From Anachronism Inc, Reactionary Drive, Outmoded, OR (555) 555-5555



The 23rd Pound

My appetite is my shepherd; I always want. It maketh me sit down and stuff myself.
It leadeth me to my refrigerator repeatedly. It leadeth me in the path of Burger King for a Whopper.
It destroyeth my shape. Yea, though I knoweth I gaineth, I will not stop eating
For the food tasteth so good. The ice cream and the cookies, they comfort me.
When the table is spread before me, it exciteth me For I knoweth that I sooneth shall dig in.
As I filleth my plate continuously, My clothes runneth smaller.
Surely bulges and pudgies shall follow me all the days of my life
And I shall be "pleasingly plump" forever.

An Owed to the Spelling Checker



I have a spelling checker, It came with my PC
It plane lee marks four my revue, Miss steaks aye can knot sea.
Eye ran this poem threw is, Your sure reel glad two no.
Its vary polished in it's weigh, My checker tolled me sew.
A checker is a bless sing, It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed, And aides me when aye rime.
Each frays come posed up on my screen, Eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pour o'er every word, To cheque sum spelling rule.
Be fore a veiling checkers, hour spelling mite decline,
And if were lacks or have a laps, We wood be maid to wine.
Butt now bee cause my spelling, Is checked with such grate flare,
There are know faults with in my cite, Of non eye am a wear.
Now spelling does knot phase me, It does knot bring a tier.
My pay purrs awl due glad den, With wrapped words fare as hear.
To rite with care is quite a feet, Of witch won should be proud.
And wee mussed dew the best wee can, Sew flaws are knot aloud.
Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays, Such soft ware four pea seas.
Any why I brake inn two averse, By righting want too pleas.

Jerry Zar, Dean of the Graduate School
Northwestern Illinois University

Boy, the spell checker did have a ball with this document; it really has a fit over things like "KBØPB" and "cw" and "QSO".
Anybody got a ham spell checker??

Did you hear about the corduroy pillow? I understand it made a lot of headlines.

ANNOUNCING THE COMMUNITY OF HAMBURG, VIRGINIA

CQ Builders, Inc., a division of the Intermod Group, is proud to announce the construction of a community of fine homes constructed with the Amateur Radio operator in mind.

All units include:

- Grounded metal screening in all walls
- Three-Phase power in all rooms including bathrooms
- Microwave oven on 2.4 GHz with RF output connector
- Pre-planted radials on single-family units



Come see some of the streets we've already finished or are in the process of building...

ARQ Avenue	Modern ranch homes with RS232C cabling between every room in the house.
Cellular Court	Guest residences for visiting non-ham friends and relatives. Cell phones provided free of charge to yuppies feeling out of place.
Desense Drive	Spacious water-cooled villas for those who run QRO whether it's needed or not.
Portable Place	Residences featuring 12V DC power only.
Reactance Road	Townhomes with extra-narrow lots for those who run verticals or like to try and load up their lawn furniture.
TVI Terrace	Fine apartment living for stations operating exclusively on 6 meters. All units feature ten-foot clearances on the balcony suitable for half-wave verticals.

(Switch to 4-point type here) [Ed. note: I was kind; I didn't]

THE FINE PRINT (See page 5)

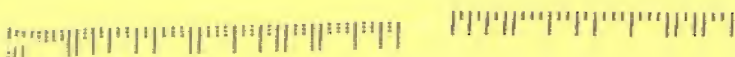
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Key Clucks